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CURRENT LITERATURE

MINOR NOTICES

Submerged forests.—People invariably are fascinated by evidences of former forests below present sea-levels, as indicated by the appearance at low tide of stumps *in situ*. That these “Noah’s woods” are of large scientific interest is well brought out in an interesting little booklet by CLEMENT REID, forming one of the useful series of “Cambridge Manuals of Science and Literature.”¹ REID speaks in detail of the various submerged forests of the English coast and of the Dogger Banks in the North Sea. The lowest of these forests are oak forests much like those of the present day, though apparently with fewer species. Among the species absent are the more southern types that have come into England since the ice age; at the same time, the glacial relicts have disappeared. It is concluded that the lowest of these forests date back about 5000 years, and that there has been no essential change of sea-level in the last 3500 years. During the period of the life of these forests the climate was much like that of the present, and the land was 60–90 feet higher than it is today.

In connection with REID’s book on submerged forests, attention may be called to a short paper by OSBORN, dealing with a submerged forest on the coast of Wales.²—H. C. COWLES.

Plant evolution.—CAMPBELL³ has presented an interesting popular account of plant evolution for the “American Nature Series.” Following a brief consideration of the factors in evolution, the different plant groups are considered, from the bacteria and blue-green algae through the angiosperms, the object here being to set forth the chief characters of each group in the scale of ascent. The book closes with four chapters having the following titles: environment and adaptation, the problems of plant distribution, the human factor in evolution, and the origin of species. Since most books of this character deal with animals rather than with plants, this volume of CAMPBELL’S is especially welcome.—H. C. COWLES.

¹ REID, CLEMENT, Submerged forests. pp. 129. *figs. 4* and *frontispiece*. Cambridge University Press. 1913.

² OSBORN, T. G. B., A note on the submerged forest at Llanaber, Barmouth. pp. 10. *figs. 2. pls. 2*. Reprint from Mem. Proc. Manchester Lit. Phil. Soc. 56: 1912.

³ CAMPBELL, D. H., Plant life and evolution. 8vo. pp. iv+360. *figs. 22*. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1911. \$1.60.